THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD is this coming Thursday, 13th May.

“The Ascension exhorts us to lift our gaze toward heaven, in order to return it immediately to the earth, to implement the tasks that the Risen Lord entrusts to us...Each one of us, in fact, by the power of the Baptism that he or she received is qualified in turn to proclaim the Gospel.” Pope Francis

Mass times are as follows:  7.30 p.m. (Vigil, Wednesday evening) and Thursday 9.15 a.m. and 1.10 p.m.

LISTEN to Fr Martin’s video reflection. Search “Fr Martin Boland” on youtube channel. Please like and subscribe to follow future videos.

ALTAR SERVERS As we anchor our weekly post-pandemic lives to Christ by the practice of coming to Sunday Mass, we are considering reintroducing small numbers (two or three) altar servers at each Sunday Mass. Our servers are such an important part of our community and it will be good to see them visibly serving at the altar again.

If you would like your child or young person to start serving again, please let us know at Clergy House as soon as possible.

NARTHEX REPOSITORY is a valuable resource for the purchase of religious items, cards and gifts. After many years of looking after the repository, Mary Cassidy assisted by Liz Murrell have decided that this is an opportune moment to hand it over to others to run. We thank them for their work and for giving so many people an opportunity to buy religious and specifically Christian items.

We very much hope to be able to open the repository later this year and are looking for people to volunteer to help with its running. It is not a difficult or very time-consuming job but it is an important one. If you think you might be interested or just want a bit more information, please contact the parish office.
**CATHEDRAL TIMETABLE**

**Saturday:** No Morning Mass or individual prayer
Vigil Mass: 6.30 p.m.

**Sunday:** Masses at 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

**Monday:** Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

**Tuesday:** Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.
Vigil Mass of the Ascension 7.30 p.m.

**Thursday:** Feast of the Ascension
Masses at 9.15 a.m. and 1.10 p.m.
Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

**Friday:** Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

**NEW GIFT AID BOXES** are now available for collection from the narthex of the Cathedral - please do remember to pick yours up and take it home with you. If you do not use the envelopes, we cannot claim the Gift Aid!

The boxes are arranged in alphabetical order so please ensure that you sanitise your hands first and avoid touching other boxes when you are collecting yours. Thank you.

**MASS INTENTIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES** can be found at https://cathedralbrentwood.org/mass-intentions/. All intentions will be said by our Priests in private celebration of Mass whilst the Cathedral remains on a reduced timetable.

**2021 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES** Please visit the Cathedral website (cathedral-brentwood.org) where you will find the latest information about our 2021 programmes for the following:

- Journey in Faith course for adults
  www.cathedralbrentwood.org/rcia-2021-course/

- Baptismal Preparation
  www.cathedralbrentwood.org/baptism-2021/

- Marriage Preparation
  www.cathedralbrentwood.org/marriage/

Please see Cathedral website and social media for updates.

**BAPTISMS 2021** We are delighted to finally be in a position to be able to start celebrating Baptisms again. However, as you might well imagine there is a significant backlog of baptisms and many parents making enquiries about this sacrament. At the same time, there is a backlog of many other celebrations, such as weddings, along with the many others demands of the Cathedral parish. Therefore, we thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

To help you make a decision about your child’s baptism, you need to:

1. reside and regularly practice in the parish of Brentwood. If you are new to the parish, you should now think about making Sunday Mass part of your regular practice and make yourself known to the clergy.

2. have undertaken the parish preparation course; this includes those who attended part or all of the course in 2020 and also those who have followed the parish Sycamore online course more recently (Sycamore Course)

3. be aware that the rule of six (this includes the priest/deacon) presently applies at baptisms.
It is hoped that later on there may be increases in the numbers permitted, and in theory, from 21 June, all restrictions on numbers of people may end, but this is not yet confirmed.

In order that we can manage the numbers of baptisms and other Cathedral services and events, when booking you will be offered the next available free date when baptisms are taking place.

If you are happy with this date, we will reserve the date and time for your child’s baptism. You will then be contacted by the priest/deacon who will celebrate the baptism. If this date is not convenient, we ask you to contact us again in October when we have hopefully dealt with the backlog of baptisms. You will then be able to discuss a convenient date for later this year or in 2022.

Please call the office (01277 265235) if you have any queries or you would like to book the next available date for Baptism.

PARISH OFFICE Until further notice, the parish office opening hours will be Monday through to Thursday (8.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.) each week. Emails and enquiries will be dealt with as swiftly as possible.

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME This month we celebrate Laudato Si’ week (16-24 May). Laudato Si’ is Pope Francis’ Encyclical which is a profound invitation to everyone on the planet to care for our common home. The past year has given many of us greater opportunities to explore and appreciate our local environment. Might this inspire you to respond to Pope Francis’ call to take action? Here are some ideas for how you can get involved during the month of May:

ELLEN WILLMOTT Did you know that one of the world’s most famous botanists, Ellen Willmott, is buried in the Cathedral churchyard? You can find her final resting place just through the archway to the right of the Parish Hall.

During her life she was credited with identifying over 60 species of plant, many bearing her name or that of her home at Warley Place. This work earned her many honours and accolades in her lifetime. She was born into a wealthy family in 1858 and moved to the huge estate at Warley when she was in her teens. When her father died in 1892, she inherited the large family home and estate, adding to the wealth she had inherited from her Godmother, Countess Helen Tasker, four years previously. She devoted this wealth to her passion of botany, creating fantastic gardens at Warley, where she entertained Royal visitors, and on estates she purchased in France and Italy. She also funded botanical expeditions to China and the Middle East and helped establish the Royal Horticultural Society’s gardens at Wisley.

Among her publications was a two-volume authoritative study of roses, Genus Rosa, including 132 fine watercolour illustrations.

Her talents were not restricted to botany and horticulture. She was a keen woodworker and photographer and played several musical instruments, owning a Stradivarius violin.

When she died in September 1934, she left huge debts which meant all her estates, including Warley, had to be sold. The grand house at Warley Place was demolished in 1939 and after the war several battles were fought to prevent a housing estate being built on the site.

Today her garden has been transformed into Warley Place Nature Reserve by the Essex Wildlife Trust and is a magical natural landscape well worth a visit.

BEE BOMBS are a fun way for everyone to get involved with growing wildflowers that attract bees and butterflies. On the weekend of 21/22 May the Green Guardians parish group will be handing out bee bombs for parishioners to plant in gardens or window boxes just in time for National Children’s Gardening week (29 May - 6 June). Or you can have some fun making your own - you can find videos on how to do this on the RHS or BBC Newsbeat websites.
‘NO MOW MAY’ Did you know about the spectacular benefits both we and our garden wildlife receive from not mowing throughout May? Like the nation’s haircuts, can we adapt to a less rigorous regime and ‘No Mow May’? If not mowing during May is just too much to contemplate, how about leaving a portion of your lawn to grow wild or leave it longer between each cut?

PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING FOR OUR COMMON HOME: CAFOD in collaboration with Christian Aid, Tearfund and others, invite you to join in prayer for our common home. As a parish we have committed to coming together in prayer each Monday evening at 8pm. We do this individually at home (so no Zoom required) but in the knowledge that others in the parish are doing likewise. If you would like to add your name to the list of those praying each Monday evening or would like more details, please email Liz Hart at lizzie45marg@gmail.com.

CAFOD have sent their thanks for generous donations to CAFOD’s Family Fast Day during Lent which will help fund many of their long-term development projects. Thank you for your steadfast support.

THE CRITICAL STATE OF PARISH FINANCES We are very aware of the financial uncertainty that some parishioners are facing during this difficult time of COVID-19. Sadly, as a parish we are also experiencing a very significant gap in our finances which is of serious concern. Unlike other businesses and institutions, there is no financial help for parishes. We depend entirely on the generosity of parishioners to cover running costs and the activities of the parish.

If you are not attending Mass at this time, we do ask you to think seriously about what you give and how you might best do so.

A contactless payment machine has been installed in the Cathedral narthex for donations. The machine is very easy to use and allows you to support the work of the Cathedral at this time by online giving.

To use: please hand sanitise and touch screen to begin.

Contributions to assist the Cathedral can be made online via the Brentwood Diocesan website:

www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=brentwood

If you prefer, you can make a payment directly into the parish bank account using online banking. You will need to set up the Brentwood Cathedral Parish as a payee on your online banking app or internet page. The Parish Bank details are as follows:

HSBC PLC, High Street, Brentwood, Essex
Account Name: Brentwood Cathedral
Sort Code: 40-13-22 Account Number: 30217492

If you use this method, please put your Surname and Initial as a reference. If you are part of our Gift Aid scheme, then please also add your Gift Aid number (GA); e.g. SmithJ GA 999

By entering this reference our Gift Aid Organiser will be able to make sure that your donation is increased in line with the Gift Aid regulations. If you don’t pay tax you can still set up a standing order or pay via online methods.

More information at www.cathedralbrentwood.org/donations/

Thank you in advance for your generosity and any support that you can provide the Cathedral parish at this time.

GENERAL NEWS

VIRTUAL LONDON MARATHON Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society has several charity places for the Virtual London Marathon taking place over 24 hours on 3rd October 2021. This can be run anywhere and on completion, runners will receive the official London Marathon Finisher’s medal and New Balance T shirt. They will also have access to the London Marathon App allowing them to plot their run on the official London Marathon course. If you would like one of our places and think you could raise a fundraising total of £300, please email Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk for registration details.
POPE FRANCIS AND THE CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER: On Saturday 15th May from 11.00 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. Dr Austen Ivereigh, biographer of Pope Francis, will lead a Gidea Park live stream study day on the theme ‘The Culture of Encounter: Can Pope Francis’ vision of fraternity counter the politicization of faith?’ Dr Ivereigh will explore the importance of the Abu Dhabi declaration, the Amazon Synod, the recent encyclical on fraternity Fratelli Tutti, and the March 2021 visit of Pope Francis to Iraq. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow the instructions found there.

VACANCY for an Assistant Manager, Walsingham House at Abbotswick. We are seeking to appoint an Assistant Manager at Walsingham House at Abbotswick to begin in the late summer. All information can be found on our website: https://bcys.net/assistantmanager. Closing date for applications is midday on Monday 10th May 2021.

VACANCY St Helen’s Catholic Infant School are seeking a Teacher (Fixed Term - 1 Year) for September 2021 start. For details and an application form (CES application form), please contact the Office Manager on: 01277 215626 or email admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk. Closing date: Monday 17th May 2021. Interview: Friday 21st May 2021.

VACANCY Sacred Heart of Mary Girls’ School, Upminster is seeking a Casual/Relief Lettings Supervisor/Grounds person and a part-time Cleaner. Contact the school for further details or an application form.

VACANCY at St Benedict’s Catholic College, Colchester for Chaplaincy Worker. For further details about the role, please contact Mrs Jo Santinelli, Principal on 01206 549222 and for further details about the college, please go to our website www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk. The closing date for applications is midday on Monday 7th June 2021.

VACANCY St John’s RC School, Woodford Bridge are recruiting full time Class Assistants. Previous experience of working with children or adults with special needs is essential. For an application pack please contact the school office on 020 8504 1818 or email office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk. These are term time only positions and successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. www.stjohnsrcschool.co.uk.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL VACANCIES Details of current vacancies can be found on the Diocesan website at this link: https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net.departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/

DIOCESAN VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - Saturday 29th May - Bishop Alan will lead a virtual pilgrimage from the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, which we can join using the Shrine’s live-streaming service via their website: www.walsingham.org.uk or their YouTube channel ‘Walsingham Catholic TV’.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES Sadly, the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in July has been cancelled for this year. However, some form of alternative experience of Lourdes in the diocese is being planned. Further details will follow in due course.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Bridget Barron, Hermine Bayley, Madeleine Bevan, Phil Carr, Matthew Conrad, David, Patricia Decup, Eileen Driscoll, Fr Stewart Foster, Julian Goode, Concetta Hall, David Hill, Ann Hurcombe, Wong Su Hwa, Jess, Brian Kelleher, Veronica Kelleher, Lawrence, Tony Maule, Mary McCarthy, Kath Murnane, Stephanie Murray, Harry Newman, Barney O’Driscoll, Siobhan O’Leary, Steven Poole, Anne Rowe, Helena Rowe, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Tim, TCT, Louisa Whiteman, and all our sick in Marillac, Mascalls, Brentwood Community, The Beeches, Queens, Nuffield and Hartswood Hospitals and St Francis Hospice.

CATHEDRAL ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Catherine Birrane,
William Willcockson, Marian Hull, Ivy Benson, Daniel King, Richard Horton, Gladys Ingis, Cristiana Arabella Angel Di Stasio Campbell, George Daly, Janette Ryan, Gillian Swires, Mary-Ann McArdle, Mary Goshawk, Sarah Bullman, Paddy Coyle, Ruth Pye, William McDermott, Jeremiah O’Connor, Brian Dineen, Alan Spencer Tiltman, Catherine Fraser, James Hennessy, Rose Rooney, Peter Vaughan, Grace Anthony, Norah Jones, Ellen Norman, Derek William Shand, Albert Peck, T McLean, Anthony Metcalfe, Denis Murphy, Mr Pattison, Brian Keene, Katherine Jones, Sister Gabby OSU, Horace Hancock, John Harrington, George Smith, John Shefford, Terence Purnell, Michael O’Regan, Mary O’Leary and Arthur Ingram.

**HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bridget Jaccottet, Mgr Canon Oliver Kelly, Kathleen O’Shea, Anthony Drury, Albert James Sexton, Mary Baker, Denis Murphy, John David Shefford, George Smith, Ken Watson, Rita Kopczynska, Joseph Clarkson, Alfred Hollis and James Holland.

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